

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 NEA-10 FEA-01

ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04

ERDA-07 FMC-02 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-05 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-03

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SMI-01 /183 W

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P 271920Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2435

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 09980

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON SENV

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION, 27TH SESSION

SUMMARY: IWC SUBSTANTIALLY ACCEPTED SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE PROPOSALS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF "AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT" SO AS TO PROVIDE COMPLETE PROTECTION FOR MOST
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SERIOUSLY DEPLETED WHALE STOCKS. ALLOWABLE CATCH QUOTAS

REDUCED MORE THAN 20 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR, AND SEVERAL STOCKS BROUGHT UNDER QUOTAS OR COMPLETE PROTECTION WHICH HERETOFORE WERE UNCOVERED. ALL FIN WHALE STOCKS PROTECTED EXCEPT FOR THREE SMALL QUOTAS. COMMISSION AGREED TO ADVERTISE AGAIN FOR NEW PERMANENT SECRETARY. RESULTS SATISFACTORY FROM US VIEWPOINT. END SUMMARY

1. IWC VOTED AFTER PROTRACTED WRANGLING TO ACCEPT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE PROPOSALS FOR CLASSIFICATION OF STOCKS UNDER "NEW MANAGEMENT SCHEME" (OLD AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT), INCLUDING "Z" VALUE (I.E. LOWEST POPULATION AT WHICH CATCH PERMITTED) OF 10 PERCENT OF MSY BELOW MSY. SCHEME TO BE INCLUDED IN SCHEDULE, WHICH PROTECTS IT IN FUTURE FROM CHANGE EXCEPT BY THREE FOURTHS MAJORITY. ONLY QUALIFICATION WAS COMPLICATED COMPROMISE WHICH CHANGED QUOTA COMPUTATIONS WITHIN THE 10 PERCENT LIMIT (FOR SEI WHALES ONLY AND ONLY FOR COMING YEAR, AFTER WHICH COMPUTATION METHOD WILL BE REVIEWED) IN MANNER WHICH INCREASED PERMISSIBLE SEI CATCH BY 650 FOR COMING YEAR ABOVE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

2. QUOTAS LARGELY FOLLOWED RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE, EXCEPT FOR ANTARCTIC SEI QUOTA MENTIONED IN PARA 1. ON STOCKS FOR WHICH QUOTAS EXISTED LAST YEAR, TOTAL PERMISSIBLE CATCH REDUCED FROM 38,550 TO 32,578 OR 21 PERCENT. ACTUAL REDUCTION SOMEWHAT GREATER SINCE NEW FIGURE FOR MINKE COVERS SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE (E.G. INCLUDE BRAZIL AND SOUTH AFRICAN CATCH), RATHER THAN ANTARCTIC SOUTH OF 40 DEGREES S LATITUDE. MOREOVER, NORTH ATLANTIC MINKE BROUGHT INTO SCHEDULE FOR FIRST TIME WITH QUOTAS TOTALLING 2550, AS WERE NORTH ATLANTIC FIN WHALE STOCKS WITH QUOTAS OF 275 FOR ICELAND AND 90 FOR NEWFOUNDLAND AREA. ALL THESE STOCKS HAVE LONG HISTORY OF WHALING BUT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN COVERED BY IWC QUOTAS BEFORE. SEI AND BRYDE QUOTAS N PACIFIC AND ANTARCTIC REDUCED 40 PERCENT. TOTAL SPERM WHALE QUOTA DOWN 23,000 TO 19,040. FIN WHALE QUOTA SET AT 220 IN ANTARCTIC, REPRESENTING TOTAL REDUCTION (ANTARCTIC AND NORTH PACIFIC) FROM 1300 OF LAST SEASON.

3. PERMANENT SECRETARY POSITION TO BE READVERTISED AS PER UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S. POSITION TO OBTAIN CANDIDATE ACCEPTABLE TO U.S.

4. NO INDICATION WHETHER JAPAN OR USSR WILL TAKE EXCEPTIONS IN PERMITTED NINETY-DAY PERIOD.

5. BOLLEN, AUSTRALIA ELECTED CHAIRMAN. RINDAHL, NORWAY ACCEPTED VICE-CHAIRMAN.

6. STATEMENT OF U.S. COMMISSIONER WHITE ON RESULTS OF MEETING FOLLOWS.

7. THIS MESSAGE SENT PRIORITY TO PROVIDE INFO TO DEAL WITH ANTICIPATED NEWS STORIES.

8. STATEMENT OF 27 JUNE BY ROBERT M. WHITE:

A. A NEW MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE FOR CONSERVATION OF THE WORLD'S WHALES WAS IMPLEMENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION AT ITS 27TH MEETING IN LONDON, ENGLAND ON 27 JUNE 1975. THE IMMEDIATE IMPACT OF THE NEW PROCEDURE IS A REDUCTION OF APPROXIMATELY 9,000 WHALES FROM QUOTAS ESTABLISHED LAST YEAR. THE TOTAL QUOTA FOR THE PAST YEAR WAS 38,550 IN COMPARISON TO THIS YEAR'S QUOTA OF 32,578 (INCLUDES LAND STATION S. HEMISPHERE MINKE WHALES (ABOUT 900) AND N. ATLANTIC MINKE (2550) AND N.

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SMI-01 /183 W

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P 271920Z JUN 75

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ATLANTIC FIN WHALES (365) NOT INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS YEARS QUOTA). THIS REDUCTION REPRESENTS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO PROTECT ALL SPECIES OF WHALES FROM ENDANGERMENT IN THE FUTURE.

B. THE IWC HAS ESTABLISHED QUOTAS FOR ALL OCEANS. THE LONG ESTABLISHED WHALING IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC FOR THE FIRST TIME WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE QUOTA SYSTEM.
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C. THESE DECISIONS OF THE IWC REPRESENT A PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE U.S. PROPOSAL FOR A 10 YEAR MORATORIUM ON ALL COMMERCIAL WHALING WHICH WAS ADOPTED AT THE U.N. CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT IN STOCKHOLM IN 1972. THE NEW MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE ESTABLISHES A SELECTIVE MORATORIUM PREVENTING COMMERCIAL WHALING OF ANY WHALE STOCK FALLING BELOW A PREDETERMINED SAFE LEVEL. THIS AFFORDS PROTECTION FOR WHALES LONG BEFORE THEY ARE REDUCED TO ENDANGERED LEVELS. PREVIOUS PRACTICE PLACED WHALES IN A PROTECTED STATUS ONLY WHEN THEY APPROACHED EXTINCTION.

D. AS A RESULT OF DECISIONS BY THE IWC, COMMERCIAL WHALING WILL NOW BE PROHIBITED FOR ALL FIN AND SEI WHALES IN THE NORTH PACIFIC; FIN WHALES IN ALMOST ALL OF THE ANTARCTIC; FIN WHALES IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC EXCEPT FOR AREAS AROUND ICELAND AND NEWFOUNDLAND; SEI WHALES IN A MAJOR REGION OF THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE; AND SPERM WHALES IN THE VICINITY OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA.

E. IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE 1972 U.N. CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, THE TOTAL TONNAGE HARVESTED OF ALL SPECIES IN ALL THE WORLD'S OCEANS WILL HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY ABOUT 30 PERCENT.

F. THE NEW MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES ADOPTED, AND OTHER DECISIONS OF THE IWC IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE U.N. CONFERENCE, HAVE SUBSTANTIALY IMPROVED THE INTERNATIONAL REGIME GOVERNING THE CONSERVATION OF WHALE POPULATIONS. THE MOST NOTABLE ADVANCEMENTS HAVE INVOLVED THE SETTING OF QUOTAS BY STOCK AND SPECIES RATHER THAN BY THE ARCHAIC "BLUE WHALE UNIT" WHICH LUMPED MANY WHALE STOCKS AND

SPECIES TOGETHER. THE NEW METHOD OF SETTING QUOTAS NOW PROVIDES FOR SYSTEMATIC MANAGEMENT OF STOCKS AND SPECIES IN RESPONSE TO THEIR CONDITION. A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT IS ALSO EXPECTED FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF WHALE STOCKS AND SPECIES BY OCEAN AREAS, THUS ENABLING MORE CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL STOCKS FROM ONE PART OF THE OCEAN TO ANOTHER.

G. THE IWC ALSO TOOK ACTION ON A NUMBER OF MATTERS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO WHALE CONSERVATION. IT DECIDED TO IMPLEMENT THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF CETACEAN RESEARCH; AGREED TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION; AND TO REVIEW THE EXISTING CON-
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VENTION WITH A VIEW TOWARD ITS MODERNIZATION TO MAKE IT MORE CONSISTENT WITH MODERN PRINCIPLES OF WHALE CONSERVATION.

H. THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS IN AFFORDING IMPROVED PROTECTION TO WHALES HAS BEEN IN LARGE MEASURE A RESULT OF THE INTENSE INTEREST OF NON-GOVERNMENT CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

I. WHILE THE UNITED STATES IS PLEASED AT THE PROGRESS MADE HERE, IT FEELS THAT MANY STEPS REMAIN TO BE TAKEN. THE DATA ON WHICH THE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES ARE BASED ARE UNCERTAIN AND REQUIRE MUCH IMPROVEMENT. AS WHALING OPERATIONS PHASE DOWN, WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT WHALING VESSELS RETIRED BY IWC MEMBERS DO NOT COME TO BE USED FOR WHALING BY NON-IWC NATIONS. WE NEED TO ENLIST IN THE IWC, WHALING NATIONS WHO ARE NOT NOW IWC MEMBERS. WE NEED TO INVESTIGATE MORE HUMANE METHODS OF KILLING WHALES, AND WE NEED TO STEP UP RESEARCH SO THAT OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHALES IS MORE ADEQUATE.

J. IT IS THE HOPE OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE MEMBER NATIONS WILL ADHERE TO THE DECISIONS MADE THIS YEAR BY THE IWC SO THAT THE FULL IMPACT OF THE CONSERVATION MEASURES ADOPTED ARE REALIZED AT THE EARLIEST DATE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, WHALES, ENDANGERED SPECIES, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON09980
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750224-0350
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750610/aaaaaikz.tel
Line Count: 267
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OFA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 OCT 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <20 JAN 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION, 27TH SESSION SUMMARY: IWC SUBSTANTIALLY ACCEPTED SCIENTIFIC COM-
TAGS: OCON, SENV, AS, IWC-1
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006